

THE STANDARD.

HILLSDALE, MICH.

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MAN IN HIS PRIME.

Ages at Which He Is at His Best Mentally and Physically.

The question has often been asked, When is man in his prime? but, for obvious reasons, a satisfactory answer has never been given. If "prime" be taken as the time when a man's intellectual powers are most highly developed, then it is apparent at once that this is not likely to correspond to the age when he is in the acme of physical strength. Tests to determine when a man is at his best physically and mentally have recently been made in London, and the results have caused a deal of astonishment to those who believe man is in his prime between the ages of forty and fifty. Tests of the strength, mental and physical, of several thousand persons were made; and these are given as the average figures for the white race: The "lifting power" of a youth of seventeen is 230 pounds; in his twentieth year this increases to 320 pounds; and in the thirtieth and thirty-first years it reaches its height, 365 pounds. By the fortieth year it has decreased eight pounds; and this diminution continues at a slightly increasing rate, until the fiftieth year is reached, when the figure is 330 pounds. Mental statistics were based on how much of a given page of a book could be memorized in a given space of time. The tests were made in English Board schools, colleges and Oxford University. It was found that youths of eighteen to twenty were far superior to men of thirty at this work. A contest was arranged between students and instructors at Oxford, and the dons were left far behind by their younger competitors. A child's mental faculties were found not to be properly developed until the age of eight years. From this age onward there was a steady increase of the amount able to be retained by the brain, in a certain time, up to the age of sixteen. Then there was a sudden jump and a stop at twenty years. At this age the brain power began to fall off, very slowly at first, but proceeding rapidly after forty years was reached.

ELECTION OF A LORD MAYOR.

How the Head of London's Municipal Government is Chosen.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The manner of electing a lord mayor is as follows: On Michaelmas day—the 29th of September—in each year the members of companies of guilds assemble in the Guild hall and nominate the two senior aldermen who have not already held the office of lord mayor. These nominations are submitted to the board of aldermen, who elect one of them as lord mayor, usually the senior in office, though once in a while there will be a contest, when the senior alderman for any reason is unpopular with the board. But as a rule it is a cut-and-dried affair, the seniors taking the office in rotation as the years pass. The 8th of November is lord mayor's day, when all London turns out to see the lord mayor's show. It is always a great occasion, in which the populace delights.

The most ancient royal houses of Europe and oldest peerages are but of yesterday when compared with the chief magistracy of London. Before Edward the Confessor reigned it was old, for the city of London dates back to a time when Britons still possessed the land. In that long line there are many distinguished and some historic names—men who well knew how to defend the rights and privileges of the city. There was Sir William Wallworth, who arrested the rebel Wat Tyler, and there was Whittington, whose adventures are known to every child. William Beckford, the father of the author of "Vathek," withstood the encroachments of royalty itself, and still more famous Jack Wilkes resisted parliament.

The Speaker's Art.

The good speaker is the light-giver. I once asked the late John Stuart Mill as to the qualities of the late Lord Derby, then Lord Stanley. He said: "Lord Stanley is the only young nobleman I know who thinks it necessary to give reasons for the opinions he holds." Logic is the light of speech. John Arthur Roebuck was the most mathematical speaker in parliament in his time. He knew that the shortest distance between one point and another was a straight line, and he took it. Sitting at his table one day, he told me what he was going to say at Salisbury, where at the bishop's request he was to deliver prizes to students. A fortnight later I read a report of his speech in the Times, which, so far as I remember, was word for word what he had said to me. The reason was that the words of a perfect statement are not changeable. If any term can be changed for the better, it means that a wrong word has been used. Thus to a trained mind, understanding is in place of memory. The chosen words recur to the speaker because they are inevitable; none others will express the sense intended.

A Gentle Hint.

He—Can you tie a true lover's knot, Miss Willing? She—No; but I can give you the address of a clergyman who, I am sure, would be only too glad to oblige you.

IN THE GOOD OLD WAY.

If children object to the laws of the home—And refuse by those laws to abide; If passion and folly invite them to roam, Shall we bid them those laws cast aside? If laws of the state seem to check our desires, When sudden indulgence holds sway, Must they bid us break loose from the laws of our sires?

Must not all restrictions away? And cast all restrictions away? No principle mould us or guide, Save the law that will always on prejudice wait.

And will change to the popular side? For absolute right or for absolute wrong, For tests of the good or the ill, Must the law that still guides be the law of the strong?

And the voice of the popular will? Again and again, in the days that are past, We asserted our right to the land, And planted our banner where still to the last The natives never bid us expand.

In States of the South and on plains of the West, The red man and Johnnie in grey Were compelled to submit to the rule that was best, Though their choice was the opposite way.

Savage lands have been ruled by a law not their own, Wicked men have been ruled 'gainst their will; Truth, justice and right have the claim to the throne, And always their mission fulfill.

Men's voices and votes have the right to be heard, When they speak on the side of the right; But in speaking of wrong there is never a word.

That can bring with it Freedom's true might, It is not what we want, but the thing that we need, That is best worth attention and care; The things that are right are the things we should heed.

If in progress and wealth we would share, The rule of the best is the rule of the right, Whatever the voters may say; And Liberty's cause with its conquering might Will sweep on in the old-fashioned way.

The call has gone forth and the duty is plain, We must succor the poor and oppressed, Since the nation that measures its duty by gain Will never by Freedom be blessed.

—JAY CER.

BIG PROFIT FOR FAST BOAT.

Maine Ship Earns \$100,000 Gross Receipts in Fifteen Months.

From the Washington Post: We find in the Lewiston Journal of the 15th instant "the record of a Maine-built ship," which is very pleasant reading, for it furnishes conclusive proof that shipbuilding in the United States is a profitable industry under judicious management. This particular ship is called the Dirigo, and appears to be worthy of her proud name.

She was built, the Journal says, by the Sewalls, at Bath, and is the largest steel ship afloat bearing the stars and stripes. It is probable that no steamship in the freight business exclusively has earned so much money in a year as this sailing vessel has placed to the credit of her owners.

The record published in the Journal shows that Dirigo left New York for Shanghai on Jan. 9 last with a cargo of general merchandise, which brought in a gross amount of \$35,350. After discharging at Shanghai she came across the Pacific in ballast to Puget sound and immediately picked up a coal freight for San Francisco, which added \$11,000 more to her receipts.

Coal freights paid so well that the ship made two voyages in the trade. She has just been chartered to load wheat on the Puget sound at 33 shillings 9 pence. She can carry 4,700 tons of cargo, and at this rate the gross receipts for the voyage to Europe will be \$38,070. She is a fast boat, but if she should make only an average voyage she will reach Liverpool by April, so that the gross receipts for fifteen months' work will amount to nearly \$100,000, about one-half of which will be profit. Our Lewiston contemporary finds in these figures an ample exposition of the reason why Arthur Sewall, "the Bath shipbuilder and the owner of the Dirigo, goes right along building sailing ships, while less enterprising capitalists have bewailed their decadence and bought lots in Lonesomeville at 2 per cent."

REIGNS WITHOUT WOMAN.

Barren Land Where Masculine Will Rules Supreme.

There is at least one tiny section of the globe where women are conspicuously absent from society and where man reigns supreme, undisturbed by the vagaries and caprices of even a single woman's will. There is only one territory of any size—and never has been but one—occupied by any considerable population from which woman is absolutely excluded. Yet such a place exists today and has existed for centuries. As far back as history reaches to all females it has been forbidden ground. This country without women is situated on a bold plateau between the old peninsula of Acte, in the Grecian archipelago, and the mainland. Here in the midst of cultivated fields and extensive woodlands dwells a monastic confederation of Greek Christians, with twenty-three convents and numbering more than 7,000 souls. Not one of the monasteries dates from a later time than the twelfth century. A few soldiers guard the borders of this land, and no woman is allowed to cross the frontier. Nor is this all; the rule is extended to every female creature, and from time immemorial now cow, mare, hen, duck or goose has been permitted to enter this territory.

A Correction.

Dumbition: "I am afraid that Lusher is unfortunate because he is given to drink." Flasher: "You are mistaken; it is because drink is given to him. If he had to pay for his drinks he'd never get 'em."—Richmond Dispatch.

AN ANIMATED POSTAGE STAMP.

It Changed the Course of the Drunkard Who Saw It.

There died the other day in Kansas City a man who lost his passion for drink in a peculiar manner. From his youth, says the Star, the man had been an unconscionable tippler. One night several years ago he stumbled into an obscure saloon at midnight, gave his order, and lolled against the bar for support. A man standing near by took from one pocket an addressed envelope, and from another a stamp, which he moistened with his tongue.

Instead of adhering to the envelope, as the man intended, the stamp slipped from his fingers and fluttered to the floor. The unconscionable tippler saw it fall and staggered forward to pick it up. Just as he was about to grasp it, the stamp darted in a zig-zag course toward the side wall, like a scared thing. Filled with wonder and astonishment, the drinker drew back and intently watched the bit of paper, which, upon reaching the wall, began to ascend. As it ascended, the tippler's face grew more intent, his body more rigid. He saw nothing but the mysterious, moving thing. His mind was soggy from years of ceaseless drinking. He thought, as thousands of drunkards have thought, and will continue to think, that in some inexplicable way he was doomed; the animated stamp was a warning.

At the top of the wallscotting the stamp stopped, squatted itself as if for a moment's rest before ascending higher, and then, without warning, made a swift dart toward the tippler's haggard face. The trembling sot saw it stop, saw it hesitate, and leap. He was unquestionably doomed if he continued longer to drink to excess; the stamp had been given life to warn him. With a pitiful yell of fear and determination he rushed from the saloon. From that eventful night until he died in prosperous circumstances recently the man never swallowed a drop of liquor.

The moist stamp had fallen upon a roach's back and stuck there.

Little Danger from Lightning. Statistics as to the comparatively few deaths from lightning may not avail to lessen the nervousness of those who view every "thunder head" with alarm, but they may avail to quote to children old enough to be apprehensive and who may have many summers ahead of them. Investigations made a year or two ago showed that 298 classes of objects of which 1,707 persons confessed fear, lightning was dreaded by the greatest number.

Yet in the record of fatalities there is a very small record against lightning, as compared with other causes of accidental death. Statistics prepared by the United States Weather Bureau show that for four years the average number of persons killed by lightning annually in the whole country was 196. More than that number are drowned annually in the waters about New York city, it is said, and many more than that number annually lose their lives throughout the country in bicycling. It might even appear that one is in greater danger of being fatally kicked by a horse, or of being killed by a falling chimney, than of being struck by lightning.

HOME LOVERS FIRST CHOICE. Swiss Maidens Hampered in Their Choice by Tradition.

If the American girl was as restricted in her choice of a husband as the girl of mountainous Switzerland she would quickly emigrate from the land of liberty to set up a republic of her own governing in some convenient section of the globe. Swiss maidens have wide and deep courtship license, but in many of the cantons they are allowed but a narrow choice of bridegrooms, it being a rigorously enforced, if unwritten, law that they must marry a youth of their own neighborhood. In many villages every marriageable youth belongs to a society whose sole object is to prevent any and every youth from outside from coming a-courting the maidens of the society's village. The society has a password, frequently changed—almost never divulged. A lover of the village, if challenged, gives the password and it is an "open sesame" through the on-guard ranks of the protective society. He may climb and woo uninterrupted, undisturbed. But the lover from afar must fight his way past the challenging sentinels or use the shrewdest and most successful stealth.

Reduction of Weight of Passenger Cars. The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad is striving to reduce the weight of its passenger cars. The standard pattern cars weigh close upon 30 tons, and by reducing weight in every possible detail, nearly 4 tons can be taken off. This reduction represents pretty nearly the average passenger contents of a car. Much of the traction resistance of a car is due to its weight. Consequently the reduction will increase the number of cars that may be drawn by an engine. The air resistance is independent of the weight.

Terrible Revenge. Hewitt—I hear that Gruek stuck you in a horse sale yesterday. Jewett—That's all right. I'm going to get even with him. He's got a wife. Hewitt—But you shouldn't make love to her. Jewett—I'm not going to. I'm going to put a bargain counter in my store.

Not Unreasonable. Mrs. Homepun (Indignantly)—Here's an article says that in Formosa a wife costs \$5. Mr. Homepun (thoughtfully)—Wal, a good wife is worth it.—Spare Moments.

AROUND FORTUNE'S CIRCLE.

Prosperous Man Meets Reverses and Lands Where He Began.

Sometimes it happens to a man that he suddenly slides back fifteen or twenty years of his career and is obliged to begin all over again, but not often is the fact borne in upon his mind so startlingly as in the case of a Board of Trade man. This gentleman landed in Chicago about fifteen years ago, with only a few hundred dollars in his pockets. On the morning after his arrival he arose, left his hotel and started down Wells street looking for lodgings. A sign "Rooms to Let," attracted his notice. He went in and engaged a hall bedroom at \$3 per week. A few nights after he had become established in his new quarters he was awakened by the gnawing of a rat. Arising and making a search, he found that the little animal was attempting to get at some chestnuts which he had thrown into one of the drawers of the commode. Being lonely, he left the nuts where they were and amused himself by speculating how long it would take the rat to reach them. In a night or two a round hole appeared in the bottom of the drawer. Mr. Y— kept his nocturnal guest supplied with food for several weeks, at the end of which time the animal mysteriously disappeared. Nor did the man himself remain long in the room. He prospered from the start financially and at the end of five years found himself the possessor of a wife and a child. In ten years he was a wealthy man dwelling in a comfortable home on the Lake Shore drive. But suddenly Fortune reversed her wheel. His wealth escaped him in a series of unlucky speculations, his wife and child died. He determined not to go to a hotel, but to take a room in a private family. Consulting the advertisements in The Chronicle he selected one which seemed suitable, put the paper in his pocket and boarded a street car. Arrived at the house he rang the bell and was shown the room specified in the "ad." After passing much of his life in a spacious residence it seemed small to him. "I don't think it will do," he said, and turned to leave. Just then something familiar, something reminiscent, arrested his footsteps. He looked earnestly at the landlady. "I haven't another room in the house vacant at present," she said, mistaking the meaning of his glance. Without saying another word, he walked straight to the commode and pulled open the second drawer. There was a rat hole in the corner. "Never mind," he replied. "I guess this will do."

NOT AFRAID OF "13." The Remarkable Incidents in a Clergyman's Life.

Rev. B. F. Chapman of Andover, Conn., has lived to be 88 years old without feeling the effects of any evil number, yet he was born on the thirteenth day of the month. He was 13 years old when his family made an important move of his boyhood, and thirteen years after that he was married. He is a member of a family of thirteen, and his wife was also so situated. She was born on the thirteenth day of the month, and had thirteen letters in her name. Three of their five children saw the light of day on the same day of the month, and Mr. Chapman says in conclusion that he was born and will probably die in one of the thirteen original states and in a county having thirteen towns. When he came to Andover the usher at the church showed him into pew 13, and he has sat there for four years. When he came to Andover the postmaster offered him No. 13 letter box, saying that no one else would have it.

Concerning Centenarians. Of the fourteen reputed centenarians who died during the past year, no fewer than eleven were women, according to the Illustrated London News. Out of the 183 persons who were declared as over 90 years of age, 105 were women. The superior longevity of the female sex is a well-established fact. To some extent it depends, of course, on their more sheltered method of living, but by no means exclusively, as the women of the laboring classes show a great vital tenacity as well as those who have an easy time of it in the world. The vital power of girls is displayed in babyhood, for though about 104 boys are born to every 100 girls, the females have more than overtaken the deficiency before the end of the first year. In other words, the belief of old nurses that "boys are harder to rear than girls" is a true one.

Hunting Up in Maine. Returns from the 12,000,000 acres of hunting grounds in Maine indicate that the same methods will be pursued this year as have been followed in past seasons. The first week of operations has witnessed the killing of some 800 to 1,000 deer, of which about 300 have been brought to the railroad stations for shipment out of the state. Beyond a doubt there are deer enough in the Maine woods for all the hunters who will come home to pass the New Year's holidays with his family there will still be 100,000 vigorous deer left to keep up the average for next year's hunting.

Manila's Lighting Stations. There is a central electric lighting station in Manila which supplies current for 12,000 incandescent and 260 arc lamps. There are 720 miles of telegraph lines in the islands and 70 miles of steam railways. Manila has also a telephone system. The conductors are all overhead lines carried on poles with porcelain insulators.

America's Greatest Medicine is

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The pimple on your Face to the great Scrofula sore which

Drains your system. Testify that Hood's Sarsaparilla cures

Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Catarrh, Rheumatism,

And That Tired Feeling. Remember this And get Hood's

And only Hood's.

Dr. Melville's Lectures. Dr. Melville's lectures at the Smith hotel parlors were largely attended and no one that heard them could have come away disappointed. Her remarks were illustrated, and she possesses a grace of manner and fluency in speech which makes it pleasant to listen to her. She understands her subjects thoroughly and described the great forces of nature that are arrayed for and against us, until the perfect and ideal woman (a picture of health and life) was portrayed as God's noblest handiwork. She believes that every woman should understand cooking and that much domestic unhappiness could be avoided if every woman was a good cook. She also preaches that the birthright of every woman is beauty and health, that a healthy woman can marry any man she makes up her mind to, that life is worth living and that marriage is not a failure. She believes in heredity and says she could not help being a doctor even if she wanted to, as both sides of her family were doctors before her. She believes the field of medicine is one in which jealousies and prejudice should never enter. The physician who becomes irritable and jealous over the success of a rival can never give fair advice or treatment to a patient; he should go into some other pursuit where cows and horses are the subject and not human lives. She believes that electricity is coming to the very forefront in the practice of later day medication, and she mentioned some of the many machines which she has in her office for the generation of the different forms of electricity, among which was the bath and spray machine used especially to restore equilibrium to the nervous system and increase nutrition in persons suffering from nervous prostration, debility, insomnia and wasting disease. She also has a wonderful X-ray, with which it is possible to see every organ in the body, all of which shows clearly her intimate knowledge with the latest scientific discoveries of the day. Her audience was all that could be desired and lacked neither quantity nor quality. Dr. Melville is full of health, spirit and strength, and she deserves the hearty welcome of all those interested in the great work of curing suffering humanity.

Soldiers Are Sane. An interesting table, prepared by the British lunacy commissioners, shows the average number of lunatics in various professions and occupations during a period of five years, calculated on the ratio to every 10,000 of the population. With clergymen, the ratio is 11.1; with physicians and surgeons, 16.4; barristers and solicitors, 15.4; chemists and druggists, 14.6; commercial travelers, 14.1; railway engineers and stokers, 12.5; soldiers, lowest of all, 10.5.

PROBATE COURT. Estates acted upon since our last report: Moses Kipp, dec'd; administrator discharged. Sophia Tinsley, dec'd; bond on sale of real estate filed. Joshua Davis, dec'd; executor discharged. William J. Whitbeck, dec'd; report of commission filed. Mary E. Prouty, dec'd; final account allowed and estate signed. John L. Southworth, dec'd; license to sell real estate issued. John Jones, dec'd; executor discharged. Sawyer B. Dowder, dec'd; hearing petition to appoint a administrator, etc. Feb. 10. Abigail Downer, dec'd; hearing petition to appoint administrator Feb. 10. William Divine, dec'd; letters testamentary issued to Maria Divine.

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THE EYE.—If your vision is failing, if your eyes are inflamed or painful, do not fail to consult her.

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CATARH.—If you have not breathed through your nose properly for years, he will guarantee to open your breathing space in a single treatment. Cures are permanent. Do you get colds easily? Have you hay fever or asthma? Nose bleed, polyp, bad breath, dropping into the throat obstruction to breathing? All of these are cured. Catarrh leads to deafness, consumption, dyspepsia. Do not neglect catarrh.

RHEUMATISM.—Acute or chronic improves from the first treatment, and is permanently cured.

CHRONIC DISEASES.—Of the stomach, liver, bowels, when the diagnosis is properly made, recover promptly under treatment. Diseases of the lungs, heart and kidneys in the first stages are always curable; in the second stage curable under certain conditions; in the third stage they are declined. Advice is always free.

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PARALYSIS.—People paralyzed, crippled or bed-ridden for years sometimes recover power in a single treatment; all are greatly benefited.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS. State of Michigan, county of Hillsdale, ss. Probate court for said county.

Estate of William Divine, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed by the Judge of Probate of said county, commissioner on claims in the matter of said estate, and six months from the 7th day of January, A. D. 1899, having been allowed by said Judge of Probate to all persons holding claims against said estate, in which to present their claims to us for examination and adjustment.

Notice is hereby given, That we will meet on Friday, the 7th day of April, A. D. 1899, and on Friday, the 7th day of July, A. D. 1899, at 10 o'clock a. m. of each day, at late residence of said deceased in the township of Cambria, in said county, to receive and examine such claims.

Dated, January 16th, A. D. 1899.

CHRISTIAN FINK, DAVID S. CARB, J. H. RUSSELL, Probate Register.